MARASCO RAPS U.S. COMMAND

Murder Trial Would Expose 'Incompetency'

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Capt. Robert F. Marasco says that if the Army had not dropped murder charges against him and seven other Green Berets in the death of a South Vietnamese triple agent, the trial would have exposed what he termed the "incompetency" of the U.S. Command in Saigon.

Marasco, in a taped interview to be shown Tuesday night on NBC-TV, would not say whether he took part in the killing. He said it was classified information.

He said the greatest danger posed by the agent who was killed was that he would reveal Green Beret intelligence operations, not to the North Vietnamese or Viet Cong, but to th South Vietnamese.

VIOLATION ALLEGED

Marasco said his intelligence operation, which he stated involved two teams of native spies working in the Parrot's Beak section of Cambodia, was a violation of agreements with South Vietnam requiring cooperation in intelligence work.

He said the agent who was killed—Thai Khac Chuyen—was "the only man in the whole net" who knew that it was operated independently by Americans.

In addition, Marasco said, he was told that Gen. Creighton Abrams and his top intelligence generals in Saigon did not even know of the existence of his unit.

Marasco was asked if the

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matter had gone to trial who would have been embarrassed by its revelations.

"I would say offhand that the United States government would have been embarrassed, the CIA would have been embarrassed, the incompetency of the command in Saigon would have become very obvious."

ELITE UNITS

He said he felt that Abrams was against elite units like the Green Berets because "maybe he's still in a World War II frame of mind: put the tanks on line and charge."

"He has given all of the elite units a great deal of trouble," Marasco said. "But I still don't to this day understand why he was so all-fired anxious to put us in jail."

The interview was taped at Marasco's home in Bloomfield, N.J., where he operates an insurance agency. After he resigned his army commission last October, Marasco divorced his wife of six years.

He has recovered from serious injuries received in an auto accident shortly after his return to New Jersey.